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Russia's Putin and Ukraine's Poroshenko Talk Bilateral Relations in Phone Call

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Russia's President Vladimir Putin (L) shakes hands with Ukraine's President Petro Poroshenko as he arrives for a meeting on the sidelines of a Europe-Asia summit (ASEM) in Milan, Oct. 17, 2014.

President Vladimir Putin discussed bilateral relations and the situation in southeast Ukraine with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko on the telephone on Wednesday evening, the Kremlin said Thursday.

The Kremlin said in a statement that the call was on the initiative of Ukraine. It gave no further details.

Violence in east Ukraine is continuing despite a September cease-fire agreement between Kiev and pro-Russian separatists. Ukraine and Western countries accuse Russia of backing the rebels with troops and equipment. Moscow denies this.

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